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Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Letter dated 15 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration by the Council of Heads of Government of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the consolidation of efforts by the international community to counter international cartels effectively, adopted on 3 November 2017 in Tashkent (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 17 (a).

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration by the Heads of Government of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the consolidation of efforts by the international community to counter international cartels effectively

We, the Heads of Government of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), in adopting this Declaration, note with concern the growing influence in today's world of international cartels, which use unscrupulous anticompetitive practices that pose a direct threat to the economic security of States, including CIS member States.

We declare our firm condemnation of cartel activity in all its forms and manifestations, including the monopolization of markets, the creation of high barriers to market entry for national companies, price fixing and the imposition of unfavourable conditions for consumers, and we stress that such activity, which is incompatible with international law, has a damaging effect on competition and inflicts substantial harm on State economies and the well-being of citizens.

We are convinced that joint efforts by CIS member States and the entire international community to develop and implement coordinated measures to combat the unscrupulous business practices of international cartels require multilateral cooperation between the relevant government authorities within the framework of existing international and regional structures and bilateral cooperation, with the possible involvement of authorized agencies of other interested States.

We believe that international cooperation to counter cartels must be supplemented by specific measures to conduct multilateral investigations of the activities of international cartels to the extent necessary and to prevent illegal actions by international cartels, which are detrimental to world trade and impede the development of national markets.

We are convinced that countering cartels requires the consolidation of efforts by the international community and effective cooperation within the framework of relevant mechanisms that are based on the norms and principles of international law, and we support the development of an appropriate international instrument on countering cartels.

Tashkent, 3 November 2017